

Treasury Department,

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., February 5, 1881.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 29th ultimo, relative to providing for the reception etc. of the Board of Assay Commissioners, you are informed that in addition to the three ex-officio members the President has appointed eleven Special Commissioners who have accepted and will probably be present on the 9th instant.

You are instructed to set apart suitable rooms, balances, furnaces and other apparatus necessary for the use of the Commission in testing the fineness and weight of the reserved coins, so far as they can

be spared without interfering with the ordinary business of the Mint.

The traveling and other necessary expenses of the Commissioners in the performance of their duties will be paid by you from the appropriation for the Contingent expenses of the Philadelphia Mint, upon presentation of detailed bills, as required by Treasury Regulation, a copy of which is enclosed.

If for the continuous work of the Assay it seems necessary to provide any lunches or refreshments it is preferable that they should be furnished outside of the Mint Building, rather than that the usual work of the Mint should be interfered with.

As to the propriety of providing refreshments and a dinner at the expense of the Contingent fund of the Mint, I will obtain the opinion of the First Comptroller who is to act upon your accounts and advise you of his decision.

Very respectfully
Horatio C. Birchard
Director.

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Supt. Mint U.S.
Philadelphia.

157

D. M.

Wash. D. C. Feb 5/81

H. C. Burdett

Number of Assay
Commissioners.

Then actual ex-
penses to be paid on
per enclosed circular.

Will take the opin-
ion of the First Comp-
troller of the Treasury,
as to the propriety of
furnishing assay dis-
pensaries. The annual
Assay must not be
interfered with the work
of the Mint, more
than can be helped.

Recd Feb. 7th 1881.

[Abstract:] Number of Assay Commissioners, their actual expenses... 157

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